

Introduction to Acting – TA20

TA-20-01 – 5 Units Summer 2023
Tues / Thurs
9 am – 12:30 p.m.
Studio C100

Dor Atkinson
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Meetings by appointment
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to the craft of acting for the stage. Our work (aka play!) aims to develop your skills in imagination, relaxation, observation, and concentration, by engaging your voice, mind, and body. This includes work with a partner or small groups, and work as an ensemble. The class introduces analysis of text, character development, and scene study. Activities include discussions, acting games and warm-ups, improvisations, reading and writing assignments, rehearsals outside of class, and in-class performances.

This is an experiential class in which your success depends greatly on your attendance and your active class participation. Show up on time and be prepared! By fully engaging in the class assignments and projects, you will gain access to skills and concepts that can be applied throughout your life and career in any field.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Our class reader is available in digital form and in hard copy through the UCSC Copy Center.

"Students can order the reader by emailing their first & last name, student ID number and the course (THEA 20) to ccorders@ucsc.edu. We will send them an email once we've processed their request and another email when the reader is ready to be picked up. We are open Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. We're located in the basement of Basking Engineering, room 25. The cost of the reader (\$7.77) will be billed to the student's account. A library copy will be sent to the library."

You will also be required to read one play which will be assigned to you. The play will be available through the McHenry Library. After reading this play, you will memorize, rehearse, and present a scene with a partner.

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND CLOTHING

- **JOURNAL.** We will journal daily in class through Canvas. Please bring a device that will allow you to access Canvas. Alternatively, you could write in a notebook and submit the entry via Canvas after class.
- **PEN, NOTEBOOK & FOLDER.** Always bring something to write with. Bring a folder for handouts.
- **COMFORTABLE CLOTHING TO MOVE IN.** Sweats or comfortable pants that cover the knees are great. We may be working on the outdoor stage or on the floor in the classroom. Skirts, short shorts, and tight jeans may not allow you to move freely. Remove loose jewelry and hats. You may want a hoodie or long sleeved shirt as an extra layer. Wear comfortable shoes; we may sometimes work barefoot.
- **WATER BOTTLE.** Have your own water available and take bottles out with you at the end of class.
- **NO CELL PHONES.** Please keep phones turned off and put away in backpacks, to reduce distractions.
- **NO GUM...** but a snack bar, nuts, fruit, or other easy snack is a good idea for break.

PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENTS

Performance Assignments are rehearsed outside of class and performed in class. More details on Canvas.

- Personal Daily Activity (solo scene)
- Independent Activity (two person scene)
- A 2-3 minute scene from a contemporary play with a partner or partners

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Written Assignments are **due by 9 am on Canvas** on the day of our next class meeting.

- Written Assignments – observations outside of class and responses to readings / play material
- Final Paper. This is a Personal Process Reflection paper. See Canvas for more details.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Day 1 – Tues June 27

Welcome!

HMWK:

Writing Assignment #1: Eye Contact with 3 people, observe 3 other people (see Canvas for details.)

Day 2 – Thurs June 29

Writing Assignment #2: Daily Activity observations. Rehearse Daily Activities for class Thurs July 6th.

Writing Assignment #3: Read *An Actor Prepares* by Constantin Stanislavski and take notes.

Day 3 – Tuesday July 4th

NO CLASS

Day 4 – Thurs July 6th

Daily Activities

HMWK:

Writing Assignment #4: Read *Objectives* essay by William Ball and take notes.

Dor will announce partners and play suggestions. Scene Selections due Tues July 11.

Day 5 – Tues July 11

Daily Activities Continued

HMWK:

Writing Assignment #5: Read *Sanford Meisner* chapters and take notes.

On Thurs July 13, bring in an Independent Activity (I'll explain in class)

Rehearse and memorize scenes outside of class

Day 6 – Thurs July 13

Independent Activities

HMWK

Writing Assignment #6: Read *A Director Prepares* by Anne Bogart - Terror Essay – take notes.

Writing Assignment #7: Scene Score for your scene.

Rehearse scenes outside of class

Day 7 – Tues July 18

Independent Activities Continued

HMWK

Rehearse scenes outside of class

Day 8 – Thurs July 20

Rough Scenes

HMWK

Writing Assignment #8: Your Process of working on your scene with your partner

Rehearse scenes outside of class

Day 9 – Tues July 25

Rough Scenes Continued

HMWK

Final Papers Due Friday at 11:59 pm

Rehearse scenes outside of class

Day 10 – Thurs July 27

Final Scenes

Final Papers Due Friday at 11:59 pm

Potluck/ Reflection

GRADING (100 points total)

Class Participation and Active Engagement (40 pts = 5 points x 8 classes)	40%
Writing Assignments – 8 entries (5 pts x 8 entries) = 40 pts	40%
Daily Activity = 5 pts	5%
Independent Activity = 5 pts	5%
Rough scene – 2 pts/ Final Scene – 3 pts = 5 pts	5%
Final Paper = 5 pts	5%

Acting assignment points are not based on “talent” but commitment, effort, and focus; a demonstration that one has rehearsed outside of class time with full engagement; willingness/ openness to trying new approaches; and the gradual application of acting tools learned in class.

EVALUATION AND EXPECTATIONS

Participation/ Attendance

Theatre is one of the most collaborative of the arts. Actors must be able to rely on each other or there is no performance. Those of you in team sports will be familiar with this. In class, student actors depend on each other’s presence, energy level, and commitment. Therefore, **attendance and participation is mandatory**. You must make every effort not to be late or absent, especially on a day you are scheduled to perform.

Your attendance and participation grade will be based on your engaged class participation, active listening and contribution to discussion, punctuality and preparedness, visible commitment to the task and to your classmates, and growth in the areas of commitment, self-discipline, risk-taking, awareness, and emotional involvement.

COVID considerations: If you have been exposed to COVID or have any flu / cold symptoms, please stay home, take a test, and notify Dor. The instructor may ask you to go home if you have symptoms. This will keep us as healthy as possible. Masks are encouraged, especially when we are indoors. For exercises where we may be in close proximity to each other, you may want to wear a mask. We will also hold some activities outdoors.

Respect

Respect the space.

Whether we are indoors or outdoors, please respect the space by keeping it clean and quiet, like a yoga studio.

Enter quietly, turn phones off, put backpacks off to the side, and begin warming up.

Keep conversation to a minimum. Give yourself time to become present in the space.

When we work indoors, we will often work with shoes off.

Respect each other.

Be kind and respectful. Create a respectful environment. Make compassionate observations. Be good listeners.

We are here to help each other learn and grow. Speak in the first person when you give another actor feedback. Make statements like: “I observed...” “I felt...” “I noticed...”

Share your own pronouns and use others' proper pronouns. Avoid judgment or assumptions. Work collaboratively in a considerate and cooperative manner. Unkind/ unsafe language or slurs are never acceptable.

Physical contact: We may make physical contact in some exercises in this class because actors must learn how to make physical contact safely and respectfully in scene-work. This contact must feel safe and respectful. We may potentially make contact with "safe areas:" legs, elbows, knees, arms, hands, feet, necks, shoulders, heads. If at any time physical contact occurs which does NOT feel safe and respectful, you the actor have the right to say so. Please let the instructor know as soon as you feel safe communicating the problem if this occurs.

You are responsible for keeping your acting partner physically safe at all times, in class and in rehearsal. If you are not feeling safe and respected, in class or outside of class, please let the instructor know as soon as possible.

Honor System – Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited either from a published source, or from another student. Using AI is another form of cheating. Any assignment that includes plagiarized material from another source or AI generated material will receive a zero and academic sanctions may result.

Late work policy:

Performances:

Performance assignments must take place in class on the day they are scheduled. If you are out sick, we can try to schedule a make-up, but this is not guaranteed. That being said, do stay home if you are feeling unwell.

Written assignments:

You may turn in a written assignment late on Canvas. However, any written assignments turned in on Canvas past the due date / time will lose 1 point per day of lateness.

Please email the instructor if you need to submit something late, so she can find and grade your work.

Masks / COVID safety

I ask you to consider wearing a mask in class as a courtesy to those members of our community who may be immunocompromised, have a vulnerable family member at home (such as a child under 5), or remain apprehensive about COVID transmission. I will sometimes wear a mask though there may be times I will take off my mask if I feel it will help my teaching. Please be considerate toward others regarding their choices and continue to be respectful of social distancing. If you feel unwell or have been exposed to COVID, I encourage you to stay home and reach out to your TA or instructor. Contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Note about SETS (STUDENT EXPERIENCE OF TEACHING SURVEYS / student evaluations of instructors)

Toward the end of the quarter, please take the time to evaluate the course and your instructor. It is anonymous and much appreciated. *Note: SETS are always closed the day before finals week.* SETS Instructor and TA information page: <https://its.ucsc.edu/sets/sets-faculty.html>

Writing Assistance

Students are expected to come to class with basic skills in composition, sentence structure, grammar, and formal writing strategies. The instructor and TAs can help to some extent, but you may also find that it is beneficial to seek the help of a writing tutor. Go to <http://www2.ucsc.edu/lss/> to find out more. Please talk to your TA or the professor at any time if you need help in this course.

CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services)

College can be a high-stress time. Please reach out to Dor or your TA if you need help at any time! Please also know that UCSC students are eligible to utilize CAPS services, including groups, workshops, individual therapy, drop-in consultations, and more. If you feel you are experiencing depression or anxiety, please contact CAPS at (831) 459-2628. Please know that 988 is the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline phone number, available 24/7.

UC POLICY ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT / RESOURCES

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating and maintaining a community where all individuals can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of sexual harassment and sexual violence. The sexual harassment of students and employees, including sexual violence, interferes with their right to work and learn in a safe environment and is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX of the Education Act. Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, it is important that you know:

1. You can receive confidential support and advocacy at the Campus Advocacy Resources & Education (CARE) Office (care.ucsc.edu) by calling (831) 502-2273. The CARE office supports UC Santa Cruz students, faculty and staff affected by sexual harassment or sexual violence.
2. Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) Office (caps.ucsc.edu, 831-459-2628) can provide confidential, counseling support.
3. Faculty, Teaching Assistants and Advisers are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment* to inform the Title IX Office should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment. If you are not comfortable with this, please contact CARE or CAPS instead (info above).

To Report a Possible Title IX Violation directly to the University's Title IX Office, students, faculty or staff can use this online reporting form at <https://titleix.ucsc.edu/reporting/index.html> or call (831) 459-2462.

Reports to law enforcement can be made to the UC Santa Cruz Police Department (police.ucsc.edu): 831-459-2231, ext. 1.

For emergencies, call 911.

Other resources are listed on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response website: safe.ucsc.edu.

*The UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment is online here: <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000385/SVSH>

Questions or concerns regarding the Policy or related procedures and requirements, can be directed to the Title IX Office: 831-459-2462 or cscricca@ucsc.edu.

GENERAL CONDUCT

In this class we abide by the **UCSC Principles of Community**, so please familiarize yourself with these: <http://www.ucsc.edu/about/principles-community.html>.

The University of California, Santa Cruz expressly prohibits students from engaging in conduct constituting unlawful discrimination, harassment or bias. I am committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity and supports inclusivity. We need to work together to build this community of learning. I ask all members of this class to:

Be open to and interested in the views of others.

Consider the possibility that your views may change over the course of the term.

Be aware that this course asks you to reconsider some “common sense” notions you may hold.

Honor the unique life experiences of your colleagues.

Appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other.

Listen to each other’s opinions and communicate in a respectful manner.

Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.

Ground your comments in the texts we are studying. Refer frequently to the texts and make them the focus of your questions, comments, and arguments. This is the single most effective way to ensure respectful discussion and to create a space where we are all learning together.

ACCOMMODATIONS

UCSC is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to your instructor privately during office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first week of the quarter. At this time, you may discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. All students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services are strongly encouraged to contact the DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or email at drc@ucsc.edu.

- **DRC online:** <https://drc.ucsc.edu>
- **DRC Frequently Asked Questions for prospective and current DRC Students, faculty and Staff, and parents:** <https://drc.ucsc.edu/resources-and-forms/faqs.html>
- **Frequently Asked Questions regarding Service and Support animals:** <https://drc.ucsc.edu/services-and-accommodations/sa-overview/other-accommodations/service-animals-faqs.html>
- **UC Santa Cruz Service/Support Animal Policy:** <https://policy.ucsc.edu/policies/student-affairs/dss-0003.html>

GRADE DISPUTES

If you have questions about the grading of your work, please see the course instructor during office hours.

ALL-GENDER RESTROOMS

UC Santa Cruz is committed to the well-being of all students and cares about all students feeling safe and welcome, regardless of their gender identity, expression, and/or embodiment. The [Lionel Cantú Queer Center](#) has worked with students and campus staff to create more safe and accessible restrooms for transgender and genderqueer students, staff, faculty, alumni, and UCSC visitors. A [complete list of all-gender restrooms](#) on campus was compiled and is maintained by the Cantú Queer Center.

UC POLICY ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT / RESOURCES

TITLE IX/CARE ADVISORY

UC Santa Cruz is committed to providing a safe learning environment that is free of all forms of gender discrimination and sexual harassment, which are explicitly prohibited under Title IX. If you have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, know that you are not alone. The Title IX Office, the Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education (CARE) office, and Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) are all resources that you can rely on for support.

Please be aware that if you tell me about a situation involving Title IX misconduct, I am required to share this information with the Title IX Coordinator. This reporting responsibility also applies to course TAs and tutors (as well to all UCSC employees who are not designated as “confidential” employees, which is a special designation granted to counselors and CARE advocates). Although I have to make that notification, you will control how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. The goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and that you have access to the resources you need.

Confidential resources are available through [CARE](#). Confidentiality means CARE advocates will not share any information with Title IX, the police, parents, or anyone else without explicit permission. CARE advocates are trained to support you in understanding your rights and options, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. You can contact CARE at (831) 502-2273 or care@ucsc.edu.

In addition to CARE, these resources are available to you:

- If you need help figuring out what resources you or someone else might need, visit the [Sexual Violence Prevention & Response \(SAFE\) website](#), which provides information and resources for different situations.
- [Counseling & Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) can provide confidential counseling support. Call them at (831) 459-2628.
- You can also report gender discrimination and sexual harassment and violence directly to the University’s [Title IX Office](#), by calling (831) 459-2462 or by using their [online reporting tool](#).
- Reports to law enforcement can be made to the UC Police Department, (831) 459-2231 ext. 1.
- For emergencies, call 911.

DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

In our in-class and online discussions and dialogues, we will have the opportunity to explore challenging, high-stakes issues and increase our understanding of different perspectives. Our conversations may not always be easy. We sometimes will make mistakes in our speaking and our listening. Sometimes we will need patience or courage or imagination or any number of qualities in combination to engage our texts, our classmates, and our own ideas and experiences. We will always need respect for others. Thus, an important aim of our classroom interactions will be for us to increase our facility with difficult conversations that arise inside issues of social justice, politics, economics, morality, religion, and other issues where reasonable people often hold diverse perspectives. This effort will ultimately deepen our understanding and allow us to make the most of being in a community with people of many backgrounds, experiences, and positions.

REPORT AN INCIDENT OF HATE OR BIAS

The University of California, Santa Cruz is committed to maintaining an objective, civil, diverse and supportive community, free of coercion, bias, hate, intimidation, dehumanization or exploitation. The Hate/Bias Response

Team is a group of administrators who support and guide students seeking assistance in determining how to handle a bias incident involving another student, a staff member, or a faculty member. To report an incident of hate or bias, please use the following form: [Hate/Bias Report Form](#).

Slug Help/Technology

The ITS Support Center is your single point of contact for all issues, problems or questions related to technology services and computing at UC Santa Cruz. To get technological help, simply email help@ucsc.edu.

MATURE COURSE CONTENT

In university courses you may be assigned images, films or other material that could contain difficult ideas, uncomfortable language, or graphic depictions of sex or violence. You will be asked to treat these portrayals critically, to consider what is being expressed by the maker, or to examine the potential social impact, and to evaluate the works in a given context. Instructors are always happy to speak with you about the course content and/or your work, and might direct you to CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) at 831-459-2628 or the Disability Resource Center (drc@ucsc.edu, 831-459-2089) should you need additional support in order to participate and do your best work.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty. Acts of academic misconduct during the course, including plagiarism, can and usually do result in failure of the course, at the sole discretion of the instructor of record. Your case will be reported to the College Provost as per the Academic Integrity guidelines found on the web at:

https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land on which we gather is the unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, comprised of the descendants of indigenous people taken to missions Santa Cruz and San Juan Bautista during Spanish colonization of the Central Coast, is today working hard to restore traditional stewardship practices on these lands and heal from historical trauma.